

Remarks

Claims 10 - 28 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 does in fact include acetylacetonate dicarbonylrhodium (I) as the Examiner has indicated. However, as can be seen from the SU abstract, the process disclosed therein is the preparation of a finely divided (hydrophobic) silica filler by reacting silica with an organopolysiloxane containing both dimethylsiloxy groups and hydridomethylsiloxy groups, trimethylsilyl-terminated (I). Following treatment with this H-functional siloxane, acetylacetonatodicarbonyl rhodium is added, presumably as a catalyst. The mixture is heated at 20 - 100°C for 5 - 12 hours and dried. The result is a finely divided hydrophobic silica. There is no mention of any organopolysiloxane bearing unsaturated groups (Applicants' component (A) or (C)). Thus, there is no anticipation. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is thus solicited.

For the same reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims over SU under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is solicited. SU discusses the preparation of a sealing composition, but does not indicate whether it is condensation crosslinking (moisture curable), peroxide curable, or addition curable. SU does not teach or suggest either components (A) or (C). Rather, the aim appears solely to produce a dry, finely divided filler which produces thixotropic sealants, without regard to the sealant components.

For the same reason, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12 and 13 is solicited, as SU is only relevant to a filler and does not disclose the claimed composition. *Singh*, moreover, discloses condensation curable silicones, not addition curing silicones.


Claims 20 and 22 - 28 have been objected to, but indicated as otherwise allowable. Claims 20 and 22 have been made independent by incorporating all the limitations of the base and (20) intermediate claims. These claims should thus be allowable.

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for Allowance, and respectfully request a Notice to that effect. If the Examiner believes that further discussion will advance the prosecution of the Application, the Examiner is highly encouraged to telephone Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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